



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate another Formerly Used Defense Site in Orlando

Orlando Range & Chemical Yard is subject of planned Site Inspection

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has requested funding to complete a formal Site Inspection of the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard Formerly Used Defense Site. The approximate 2,100-acre site is located in Orange County, about 3.5 miles northeast of the Orlando International Airport, northwest of Curry Ford Road and South Goldenrod Road (formerly Narcoosee Road).

The Corps will conduct a Site Inspection (SI) under the Military Munitions Response Program to determine whether future cleanup actions may be warranted. As part of a 2005 scoping study, known as the Chemical Warfare Materiel Scoping Study, the Corps had determined there was no evidence to indicate chemical warfare materiel was present at this site. However, as a precautionary measure from that study, the Corps, in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, recommended a follow-on Site Inspection that would include sampling for chemical agent and agent breakdown products. Given there was not an immediate threat to human health and the environment, the follow-on Site Inspection for this formerly used defense site received a lower priority than other sites being addressed under the Department of Defense risk-based Military Munitions Response Program.

During recent historical research, the Corps found new information that indicated a bombing range may have been located on the southern end of this formerly used defense site, in an area



previously thought to only contain a small arms range. As a result, the Corps has raised the priority for the Site Inspection for the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard.

The Site Inspection of the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard is one of the first steps mandated by law in the cleanup process. Results of the Site Inspection will then be used, in coordination with the regulatory community and stakeholders, to determine whether further action is warranted.

The cost of the Site Inspection at the former Orlando Range and Chemical Yard Formerly Used Defense Site is estimated at \$1.2 million. Upon receipt of funds, expected in the May or June timeframe, the Corps will conduct a Technical Project Planning meeting with the regulatory community and stakeholders and schedule a public workshop.

The Orlando Range and Chemical Yard site was used by the Department of Defense from 1943-1946 as part of the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. The site's name was changed from Orlando Army Airfield (AAF) Toxic Gas and Decontamination Yard, to be more descriptive of its military use.

The Orlando Range and Chemical Yard was used as a post-graduate facility for demonstration, training and testing in developing new tactics and training personnel. Historical records indicate that demonstrations using military munitions and of chemical warfare were conducted at this site. Demonstrations with military munitions included the use of small arms, and potential use of incendiary devices, white phosphorous munitions, smoke pots, smoke grenades, and other munitions. Chemical Warfare demonstration exercises included the use of chemical agents for decontamination exercises, Chemical Agent Identification Sets, and training with simulated agent substances (molasses residium). During the initial Chemical Warfare Material Scoping Study, no evidence of munitions or chemical warfare materiel was found on the site.



Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered munitions, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3 Rs" of explosives safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

For further information, please visit www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard link or call the Corporate Communication Office at 1-800-291-9413 or 904-232-1576.

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